Affairs specifically carry out the special interventions for empowerment of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. The items directly concerning the welfare of SCs/STs comprise of affirmative action including reservations in Private Sector and legislation for conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce, rights of tribal and other forest dwelling communities over mineral & water sources in the forest areas and other socio-economic and environmental issues.

On the issue of affirmative action including reservations for SC/ST youth in the Private Sector, the dialogue is continuing with the Industrial Organisations. In order to redress the problems of ownership rights and eviction in respect of the tribal communities and other forest dwelling communities dependent on forests, "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" has been enacted.

Entry of foreign law firms

†*396. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give permission to foreign legal firms to function in India;

(b) if so, the conditions laid therefor and the provisions under which such permission would be given; and

(c) the opinion of the All India Bar Association in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India has consulted the Bar Council of India, the statutory body created under the Advocates Act, 1961.

Shortage of teachers in schools

†*397. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.